

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction.....	1-1
1.1 RMP Program and Policy.....	1-1
1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Plan.....	1-1
1.3 Location and Description of the RMP Study Area.....	1-2
1.4 Project Summary.....	1-3
1.5 Overview of Public Involvement, Agency, and Tribal Coordination.....	1-4
2.0 Existing Conditions.....	2-1
2.1 Climate.....	2-1
2.2 Air Quality.....	2-1
2.3 Topography and Geology.....	2-1
2.4 Soils.....	2-2
2.4.1 Soil Considerations for Wetland Development.....	2-2
2.5 Water Resources and Hydrology.....	2-6
2.5.1 Surface Waters.....	2-6
2.5.2 Groundwater.....	2-6
2.6 Water Quality and Contaminants.....	2-7
2.7 Vegetation.....	2-14
2.7.1 Weed Infestations.....	2-20
2.7.2 Rare and Sensitive Species.....	2-20
2.8 Wildlife.....	2-20
2.8.1 Rare and Sensitive Species.....	2-23
2.9 Aquatic Biology.....	2-25
2.9.1 Rare and Sensitive Species.....	2-25
2.10 Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Proposed Species.....	2-26
2.10.1 Wildlife.....	2-26
2.10.2 Fish and Other Aquatic Species.....	2-30
2.10.3 Plants.....	2-31
2.11 Cultural Resources.....	2-31
2.12 Indian Sacred Sites.....	2-33
2.13 Indian Trust Assets.....	2-35
2.14 Socioeconomics.....	2-35
2.14.1 Economy and Employment.....	2-36
2.14.2 Population and Demographics.....	2-36
3.0 Existing Land Use and Management.....	3-1
3.1 Land Use and Management.....	3-1
3.1.1 Project Facilities.....	3-2
3.1.2 Land Management.....	3-5
3.1.3 Easements and Leases.....	3-6
3.1.4 Adjacent Land Uses.....	3-7
3.1.5 Unauthorized Land Uses.....	3-8
3.2 Recreation and Access.....	3-11

**TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont.)**

3.2.1 Recreation Activities within the Study Area Boundary ..... 3-12

3.2.2 Recreation Facilities ..... 3-14

3.2.3 Visitor Profile and Use Levels ..... 3-17

3.2.4 Access ..... 3-18

3.3 Public Services and Utilities ..... 3-19

3.3.1 Emergency Fire Suppression Services ..... 3-19

3.3.2 Law Enforcement ..... 3-20

3.3.3 Water Supply ..... 3-21

3.3.4 Wastewater Treatment and Irrigation Nutrient Management ..... 3-21

4.0 The RMP Planning Process ..... 4-1

4.1 Overview ..... 4-1

4.2 Public Involvement Program ..... 4-2

4.2.1 Newsbriefs ..... 4-2

4.2.2 Public Meetings ..... 4-4

4.2.3 Ad Hoc Work Group ..... 4-4

4.2.4 World Wide Web ..... 4-5

4.3 Tribal Consultation ..... 4-5

4.3.1 Overview of Government-to-Government Consultation with Tribes ..... 4-5

4.3.2 National Historic Preservation Act Requirements ..... 4-6

4.3.3 Indian Trust Assets ..... 4-6

4.3.4 Indian Sacred Sites ..... 4-6

4.3.5 Other Laws and Regulations ..... 4-6

4.4 Agency Coordination ..... 4-7

5.0 Resource Management ..... 5-1

5.1 Introduction ..... 5-1

5.2 Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions ..... 5-1

5.2.1 Land Use and Management (LUM) ..... 5-2

5.2.2 Natural Resources (NAT) ..... 5-11

5.2.3 Cultural Resources (CUL) ..... 5-18

5.2.4 Indian Sacred Sites (ISS) ..... 5-20

5.2.5 Indian Trust Assets (ITA) ..... 5-20

5.2.6 Recreation and Access (REC) ..... 5-21

6.0 Implementation Program ..... 6-1

6.1 Introduction ..... 6-1

6.2 Implementation Components ..... 6-1

6.2.1 Management Actions ..... 6-1

6.2.2 Prioritization ..... 6-1

6.2.3 Related Management Actions ..... 6-1

6.2.4 Timing and Sequencing ..... 6-2

6.2.5 Lead Agency ..... 6-2

6.2.6 Funding ..... 6-2

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont.)

6.2.7 Monitoring.....	6-2
6.3 Amending and Updating the RMP .....	6-2
6.3.1 Amending Information in the RMP.....	6-2
6.3.2 Updating the RMP .....	6-2
7.0 Glossary of Terms.....	7-1
8.0 Bibliography .....	8-1
8.1 Literature Cited.....	8-1
8.2 Personal Communications .....	8-5

## APPENDICES

Appendix A Tribal Consultation/Coordination	
Appendix B Legal Mandates	
Appendix C Problem Statement	
Appendix D Authorities and Methods for Disposing of Minidoka North Side Land	
Appendix E Crime Witness Program Informational Materials	
Appendix F RMP Parcel Maps	

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 2.4-1. Soil Characteristics of Potential Wetland Creation Locations in the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area ..... 2-5

Table 2.6-1. A&B Irrigation District Drain Water Quality ..... 2-9

Table 2.6-2. Minidoka Irrigation District Drain Water Quality..... 2-11

Table 2.6-3. Water Quality Characteristics of Drainwater on the Minidoka North Side Pumping Division (1981-1992)..... 2-13

Table 2.7-1. Current Vegetation on Reclamation Parcels in the Minidoka North Side RMP Study Area ..... 2-18

Table 2.7-2. Rare and Sensitive Plant Species Listed by FWS for Counties in RMP Study Area ..... 2-20

Table 2.8-1. Rare and Sensitive Wildlife Species Listed by FWS for Counties in RMP Study Area Containing Reclamation Parcels..... 2-24

Table 2.10-1. Threatened and Endangered Species, Proposed Species, Candidate Species, and Species Petitioned for ESA Listing for Counties in RMP Study Area Containing Reclamation Parcels..... 2-27

Table 2.11-1. Cultural Sites that are Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places..... 2-34

Table 2.14-1. Minidoka North Side Land Distribution Summary ..... 2-36

Table 2.14-2. 2003 Annual Average Labor Force and Employment Summary ..... 2-36

Table 2.14-3. Comparative Per Capita Income Summary ..... 2-37

Table 2.14-4. Comparative Demographic Data Summary..... 2-37

Table 3.1-1. Agriculture and Grazing Lease Summary ..... 3-7

Table 3.1-2. Adjacent Land Use Summary..... 3-8

Table 3.1-3. Summary of Known Agriculture Encroachments by Reclamation Parcel ..... 3-9

Table 3.1-4. Summary of Non-Agriculture Encroachments by Reclamation Parcel..... 3-11

Table 3.2-1. Recreation Activities on Specific Reclamation Parcels in the Study Area ..... 3-12

Table 3.2-2. Primary Activities at Lake Walcott State Park..... 3-17

Table 3.2-3. Dirt Roads Through Parcels as Related to Parcel Size..... 3-19

Table 4.1-1. Primary Issues of Concern Identified During the Initial RMP Phase, Based on Public Input..... 4-3

Table 4.2-1. Agencies, Tribes, and Organizations Represented on the Ad Hoc Work Group ... 4-4

Table 6.2-1. Management Actions for Land Use & Management (LUM) ..... 6-3

Table 6.2-2. Management Actions for Natural Resources (NAT)..... 6-8

Table 6.2-3. Management Actions for Cultural Resources (CUL)..... 6-11

Table 6.2-4. Management Actions for Indian Sacred Sites (ISS)..... 6-12

Table 6.2-5. Management Actions for Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) ..... 6-12

Table 6.2-6. Management Actions for Recreation and Access (REC) ..... 6-13

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 2.3-1. Slope and Hydrography..... 2-3

Figure 2.7-1. Vegetation Associations..... 2-15

Figure 3.1-1. Land Status and Management ..... 3-3

Figure 4.1-1. RMP planning process and RMP schedule ..... 4-1

Figure 5.1-1. Resource Management Index..... 5-3

## LIST OF PHOTOS

Photo 1-1. Aerial view of Minidoka Dam, power plant, and operation facilities, with Lake Walcott above and the Snake River below .....	1-3
Photo 2-1. Minidoka North Side parcels are located on areas distinguished by mostly flat topography as shown in this typical landscape view.....	2-2
Photo 2-2. Large basalt rock outcropping known as the “Cinder Pit” .....	2-2
Photo 2-3. Lake Walcott as seen from the State Park.....	2-6
Photo 2-4. Irrigation canals on one of the Minidoka North Side parcels .....	2-7
Photo 2-5. Injection well used to force return flows and storm water back into the aquifer .....	2-8
Photo 2-6. Portion of a parcel made up of mainly good shrub-steppe habitat.....	2-14
Photo 2-7. Rock outcropping surrounded by sagebrush and bunchgrasses .....	2-17
Photo 2-8. Many of the parcels show signs of degradation as typified in this photo (e.g., ORV use, over-grazing, and noxious weeds) .....	2-17
Photo 2-9. Lupine, globe mallow, and bunch grasses.....	2-18
Photo 2-10. Typical artificially constructed wetland.....	2-19
Photo 2-11. Waterfowl take flight from one of the larger artificially constructed wetlands .....	2-22
Photo 3-1. The area of Snake River below Minidoka Dam is known for good fishing opportunities .....	3-2
Photo 3-2. Minidoka power plant and associated facilities .....	3-2
Photo 3-3. Control gates located on one of the many irrigation canals .....	3-2
Photo 3-4. Illegally dumped materials .....	3-10
Photo 3-5. Photo showing ORV damage (and agricultural encroachment in top left corner of photo) .....	3-10
Photo 3-6. Copy of a brochure containing information regarding Reclamation’s Crime Witness program.....	3-10
Photo 3-7. Lake Walcott and distant mountains as seen from the State Park.....	3-12
Photo 3-8. Bishop’s Hole, located just downstream of Minidoka Dam, is a popular fishing site and day use area .....	3-13
Photo 3-9. A “before” photo of the Record Tree (previously the largest Eastern cottonwood in the U.S.) taken in October 2001 .....	3-13
Photo 3-10. An “after” photo of the same tree taken a week after incurring major damage (August 2002).....	3-13
Photo 3-11. Walls built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the early part of the 20th century .....	3-14
Photo 3-12. Pathways connect various areas within the park.....	3-15
Photo 3-13. RV campsite at Lake Walcott State Park .....	3-15
Photo 3-14. The two boat ramps located at the east end of the park .....	3-16
Photo 3-15. Interpretive sign at the State Park describing wildlife values within the adjacent Minidoka NWR.....	3-17
Photo 3-16. Typical two-track dirt road.....	3-18
Photo 3-17. Extensive damage caused by ORVs from overland travel off one of the many two-track dirt roads .....	3-18
Photo 4-1. Reclamation presentation to the AHWG on various parcel information .....	4-5

## LIST OF PHOTOS (Continued)

Photo 4-2. The AHWG discussing concerns related to the Bishop's Hole area under the Record Tree .....	4-5
Photo 4-3. The AHWG observing wildlife and overall conditions of one of the constructed wetlands.....	4-5

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A&B	A&B Irrigation District
AHWG	Ad Hoc Work Group
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
BID	Burley Irrigation District
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
B.P.	Before present
BPA	Bonneville Power Authority
CDC	Conservation Data Center
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FR	Federal Register
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS	Geographic information system
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDPR	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
IPM Plan	Integrated Pest Management Plan
ITAs	Indian Trust Assets
MBT Conventions	Migratory Bird Treaty Conventions
MID	Minidoka Irrigation District
N	nitrogen
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
NO <sub>3</sub>	nitrate
NPDES	Natural Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
ORV	off-road vehicle
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RV	recreational vehicle
SCIIDC	South-Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SR	State Route
TCP	Traditional cultural property
TKN	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service

